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Power Of Suggestion



A Bookman's Notebook

Far-Ranging Americans Get Rare View of East

William Hogan

It's interesting, in this Age of Communications, how little Americans really know about the world around them—the world, that is, off the well-beaten paths of commercial jet airliners. Take the Philippine Islands of the Sulu Sea which lie in an archipelago south and west from Mindanao toward British North Borneo. Total anarchy seems to be the norm here. It is a region of serious piracy and smuggling which all the efforts of the Philippine Navy can do little about.

And North Borneo itself, an island in time which may be an important and productive unit in the world's economy of a future century, but today remains a 19th Century outpost of benevolent colonialism, if uncomfortably near explosive and unpredictable Indonesia.

There are other regions — "borderlands" of political seething and Marxism. Take the Northern Burma regions of Shan and Kachin. What do you know about them? Or the isolated Indian protectorate of Sikkim, nestling against Tibet?

Or the northern provinces of Afghanistan-Turkestan. Or the shadow of Mount Ararat in Turkey. These are among the regions studied, analyzed and explained in a fascinating, informative and exotic book titled "Borderlands." It is the work of a veteran reporting team, Delia and Ferdinand Kuhn, who write as historians in this book as well as observers of the contemporary scene.

Their analysis is the result of seven journeys in and about Asian areas most Westerners rarely see. Five of the six regions the Kuhns present here lie directly on Soviet Russian or Communist Chinese frontiers.

Nearly all are backward regions, economically, and in

many cases are fertile ground in which Communist education, industry and agriculture might blossom. The exception, perhaps, is Japan's big northern island of Hokkaido, facing the Siberian outpost of Sakhalin across a narrow strait. This, too, is a comparatively unknown region to Westerners who may be quite at home in bustling Tokyo.

"Borderlands" takes on an Arabian Nights air as it seriously investigates lands of which most of us are sadly unaware. They may be potential trouble spots, but in reading this stirring book one becomes aware of them as

places, and people, of the future as well as the distant past.

The Kuhns describe these "borderlands" as areas far from the center of political, economic and social power in their own countries, and areas also close to someone else's political and cultural boundaries. Don't let that put you off. This is one of the most eye-opening and thoughtful travel books of the season — especially, perhaps, for far-ranging Americans to whom the world is one international airport after another.

Borderlands. By Delia and Ferdinand Kuhn. Knopf; 335 pp.; illus. \$6.75.

Around the World With



DELAPLANE

"Something to give a couple (not expensive please!) that is useful on a trip to Europe."

Something I can't get along without is a Swiss Army knife. This is like a Boy Scout knife, except a little more sophisticated. It has a corkscrew as well as other gadgets.

There will be a lot of times in a room when you want to repair the plumbing or cut up fruit. This knife has it all. Including blades for slicing thin help. Big sporting goods stores in the States sell them.

The Swiss Tourist Office might even arrange to deliver one. They do almost anything you ask them to.

★ ★ ★

"... is it true what they say about Bali?"

Pan-Am's Robin Kinkead says yes. He just got back. A little warm, but he headquarters in the air conditioned Hotel Indonesia in Jakarta. He likes the exotic Balinese dances in the temple courtyard.

With exotic Balinese beauties. But he complains that the batik sarongs pop up to the neck when you flash a camera. The result of too many visitors claiming to be from The National Geographic, I suppose.

★ ★ ★

There are two old fashioned, but fair, hotels. The Sindhu Beach and the Segara, both on the reef-fringed water. Your breakfast is delivered to your own porch every morning.

On the shopping side Kinkead likes teak carvings, batiks, silver. And he saw some paintings there he thought were pretty good.

★ ★ ★

"... tell me about the South American tour you wrote about?"

I leave Oct. 29 via Panama, Peru, Brazil and points south. Three weeks with a pretty small group. Room now for only three more. If you can go, send me a card for a folder. If not now, go sometime. This is magnificent, unspoiled country—about the last there is.

★ ★ ★

"On a cruise we will make this winter we stop in Tahiti, Fiji, Australia and, I think, New Zealand. What's to buy?"

Tahiti has some inexpensive shell necklaces—you'll find them all over Papete. South Pacific shells are magnificent. They string them up well. But a lot of this stuff you can't wear home. These seem to travel well.

★ ★ ★

There's a pretty dashing planter's sun hat in woven pandanus that I like. White grass hula skirts—better than any place else.

In New Zealand, I couldn't find anything to buy but postcards. Australia has some toy koala bears (kangaroo skin stuffed). Does a little selling of wool sweaters and blankets—but not outstanding in rarity or price. Some semi-precious stones. And Aboriginal bark paintings are good, although I hear most of them are faked.

★ ★ ★

Fiji has some good tortoise shell work. Bracelets, earrings and so on. Indian saris. They sell hardwood replicas of the special dishes they used to serve up your great grandfather in.

Man eating was a rather gala affair. They used the Sunday dishes. The type used to serve the arm makes a good salad bowl.

★ ★ ★

The South Pacific cruise is one of the necest things you can do. It's just that they get about the same number of tourists as Akron, Ohio. And you don't find souvenirs all over Akron, do you?

★ ★ ★

"Where can I write for information on Puerto Rico?" Jose Lopez Garcia, Director of Tourism for Puerto Rico, 666 Fifth Ave., New York City.

★ ★ ★

Stan Delaplane finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

Gibson for Assessor

The importance of the County Assessor's office is being pointed up in a graphic manner this year—one of the first times this has been true in the past generation.

Assessment practices throughout the county, which has immediate impact on all owners of homes, businesses, or other taxable property, has given a sense of awareness to most residents of the Southland on matters pertaining to such assessments.

Fortunately, the two candidates who survived the eight-man primary election last June appear qualified and determined to do something about the current system.

Philip E. Watson, who has impressed many leading residents of the county with his qualifications, is making a determined race to overtake the apparent lead establishment by City Councilman John S. Gibson Jr. in the June elections.

Whatever the choice, The HERALD believes the taxpayers of Los Angeles County will benefit.

Before the June elections, The HERALD endorsed Gibson, and recommended to the voters that he be elected to the important office. That endorsement still stands.

Councilman Gibson, who has represented the Harbor Area on the Los Angeles City Council since 1951, has demonstrated beyond question a personal integrity and a Christian code of conduct which has put him above criticism for any personal reasons.

He has demonstrated a quality of leadership, having served as president of the City Council for eight successive years; and he has outlined a program to modernize the operation of the County Assessor's office to give a fair break to the citizen-taxpayer.

The HERALD reaffirms its recommendation that Gibson be elected to this important office.

'No' on Proposition 15

A growing dissatisfaction over appeals processes for property owners who seek adjustment of assessments has led to a proposal to create a tax assessment appeal boards in the county to relieve the Board of Supervisors of this burdensome task.

The suggestion, appearing on the November ballot as Proposition 15, has been attacked as unworkable by a number of prominent county leaders.

Taking the strongest role against the proposal is Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who has advocated, instead, that assessment rolls be published.

This was done this year in Santa Monica where the Evening Outlook published the assessments lists for the city of Santa Monica as a public service. It took 11 pages in the newspaper, but for 10 cents, anybody could look at the lists and determine if his property was assessed on the same basis as his neighbor, or other comparable property.

The plan has gained widespread support, and its cost would not be greater than the establishment of separate boards of appeal, according to those who have studied the matter.

The HERALD believes that changes should be made in the manner of adjudicating assessment complaints but does not believe the proposal as put forth in Proposition 15 is the answer. For that reason, we recommend a NO vote.

Morning Report:

I think the government has made a big mistake in trying to find out if former Major General Edwin Walker is crazy.

He was arrested in Mississippi and then rushed off to the psychiatrists.

Walker was defeated when he ran for governor of Texas and was still campaigning weeks later in Mississippi when the law put the arm on him.

This may not be smart politics. But a defeated candidate shouldn't have to prove he is not off his rocker. The next thing you know, they'll make the wining candidates prove their sanity. That could prove really embarrassing.

James Dorais

War Against Crabgrass, Bugs Could Boomerang

Is the day approaching when the songbirds won't sing in the springtime?

Rachel Carson, a biologist whose "The Sea Around Us" was a best-seller a few years ago, is afraid so. The reason, she claims, is that in our zeal to rid the country of such pests as crabgrass, aphids, boll weevils, mosquitos, Japanese beetles and house flies with powerful chemical sprays, we are decimating the bird and mammal population too — and may be causing long range harm to humans as well.

★ ★ ★

Miss Carson may overstate the case, but she gives some startling, well-documented examples of what she is talking about.

For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Illinois Agriculture Department embarked on a campaign to eradicate the Japanese beetle in eastern Illinois a few years ago by intensive aerial spraying of 2600 acres with dieldrin, a commercial chemical.

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The massive attack was successful. The poisoned Japanese beetle grubs crawled out of the sprayed ground to die. They were promptly eaten by meadowlarks, pheasants and other birds. Robins feasted on dieldrin-poisoned earth-worms. Along with the beetles, the birds died or were rendered sterile.

Nor was that all. According

to Miss Carson, there were dead squirrels and cats on the lawns, dead rabbits in fields, dead muskrats by the stream edges.

The author gives numerous other examples of the side-effects of indiscriminate spraying, which she terms an attempt to beat nature into submission with a club.

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She also points out that DDT, dieldrin and other pesticides are often self-defeating, because they kill off the weaker insects and build up

the sturdier breed that are immune to future spraying.

As for humans, she believes that damage to the human system through exposure to noxious chemicals in the food we eat will prove to be a serious problem over a period of years. And unlike the short-lived insects, which can build up an immunity through many generations in a few years, it would take centuries for the human population to breed its own durable strains.

ROYCE BRIER

Junior Grade Arms Race Shaping Up in Mideast

Normally what we call an arms race occurs between nations capable of producing arms.

Over the past century, human experience has been that these accumulations of arms, beyond reasonable defense requirements, lead to wars. This was equally true of the armed Athenian triremes—the Athenians had a facility for building and maneuvering them—and this led to use of them in the Aegean Sea.

Powerful nations have al-

ways armed smaller nations in hope of using them as allies in a clash with other powerful nations.

But this still differs somewhat from trying to maintain a "balance of power" between small nations, as we are now doing in the Mideast with an agreement to provide Israel with Hawk anti-aircraft guns.

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Theoretically, this aids the Israelis against a possible attack by the United Arab Republic, but a much larger question of an artificial arms race enters.

Hawks have a ground-to-air range of 38,000 feet, reaching most, though not all, bomber-fighter combinations. Hawks are ineffective against ground-to-ground missiles, which Egypt says it is developing with German technical help. But these missiles will not be operational for some time.

The UAR recently announced it had acquired TU-16 bombers and MIG fighters from the Soviet Union. Our State Department says this "disturbed the balance of power" in the Mideast, and

"might lead to hostilities."

We don't know if the Israelis are developing missiles, and we don't know if State knows. There has been a news blackout on Israeli military affairs for over a year.

★ ★ ★

Now State says the Hawks to Israel do not mark a continuing American policy in the Mideast—it's a one-shot to take care of a momentary imbalance so-called. This pronouncement sounds ingenious.

The idea is the UAR is being supplied by the Soviet Union, so we supply a contiguous nation. (This is quite different from direct aid to Turkey, for instance, to build its defense against possible Soviet aggression.)

It is true enough the United States and the Soviet Union can select nations considered "friendly" to them, in the Mideast or any other region, and supply them with arms, throwing in more at every outward appearance a neighbor has the edge. But this is an induced, secondary arms race, whatever it is called, and it is fraught with manifold perils.



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Women Musicians Just Don't Have It!

By Count Marco

I saw a young woman carrying a violin case down the street and I thought, what a complete waste of time, energy and money—unless, of course, it was filled with cookbooks.

As musicians you women just don't have it, and the time expended on tackling a musical instrument could be spent in far better pursuits such as genuine homemaking.

Most regrettably, too, you lose too much femininity playing around with instruments far too big or clumsy for you to handle.

Can you really think of a clumsier sight, for example, than a woman straddling something as big and awkward as a cello? Women cello players look as graceful as a matador hung up on an angry bull.

Or take women trombone players who stand or sit making gestures with their horns that border on the obscene.

Then there's the trumpet player, red in the face, eyes crossed, blowing her brains out. But by far the worst of the lot is the woman violinist who sits out in front sawing away madly like a lumberjack on overtime.

Now who can appreciate a concerto under those circumstances?

Some of you have taken up snare drums, bongo drums, ketledrums and lord knows what else.

Once I was forced to sit and listen to one of those all-girl orchestras. They tore through a number far too fast for women, and when they finished they sat

there breathing heavily and perspiring profusely—as unfeminine a sight as one could imagine.

Don't waste time sending your daughters to music school. After all, can you think of one woman musician — other than someone who played the harpsichord—who has made a success? Of course not.

Now, playing the piano is all right as a pastime around the house to amuse yourself and the children.

But tuba playing, bass fiddles or the like are out. Even a harp has drawbacks unless you can ride it sidesaddle.

Save that money you would ordinarily spend on useless instruments and lessons, and spend it instead on a trip with your husband so the two of you can be alone. It will be one more step back to femininity for you and harmony in the home.